

Analytic geometry

This article is about co-ordinate geometry. For the study of analytic varieties, see [Algebraic geometry § Analytic geometry](#).

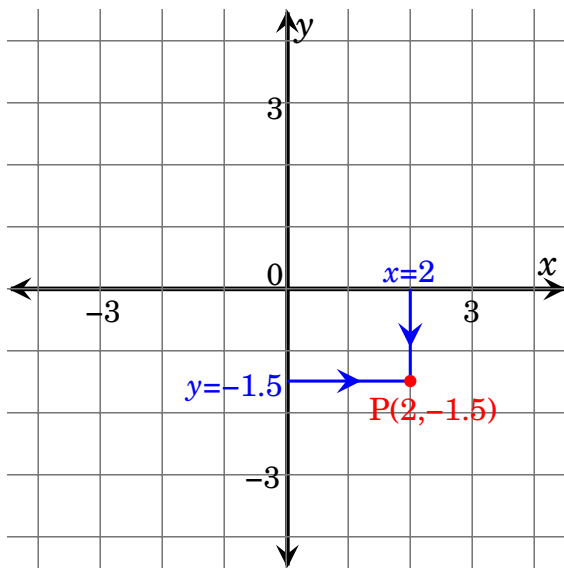
In classical mathematics, **analytic geometry**, also

1 History

1.1 Ancient Greece

The Greek mathematician **Menaechmus** solved problems and proved theorems by using a method that had a strong resemblance to the use of coordinates and it has sometimes been maintained that he had introduced analytic geometry.^[1]

Apollonius of Perga, in *On Determinate Section*, dealt with problems in a manner that may be called an analytic geometry of one dimension; with the question of finding points on a line that were in a ratio to the others.^[2] Apollonius in the *Conics* further developed a method that is so similar to analytic geometry that his work is sometimes thought to have anticipated the work of **Descartes** by some 1800 years. His application of reference lines, a diameter and a tangent is essentially no different from our modern use of a coordinate frame, where the distances measured along the diameter from the point of tangency are the abscissas, and the segments parallel to the tangent and intercepted between the axis and the curve are the ordinates. He further developed relations between the abscissas and the corresponding ordinates that are equivalent to rhetorical equations of curves. However, although Apollonius came close to developing analytic geometry, he did not manage to do so since he did not take into account negative magnitudes and in every case the coordinate system was superimposed upon a given curve *a posteriori* instead of *a priori*. That is, equations were determined by curves, but curves were not determined by equations. Coordinates, variables, and equations were subsidiary notions applied to a specific geometric situation.^[3]



Cartesian coordinates

known as **coordinate geometry**, or **Cartesian geometry**, is the study of **geometry** using a **coordinate system**. This contrasts with **synthetic geometry**.

Analytic geometry is widely used in **physics** and **engineering**, and is the foundation of most modern fields of geometry, including **algebraic**, **differential**, **discrete** and **computational geometry**.

Usually the Cartesian coordinate system is applied to manipulate equations for planes, straight lines, and squares, often in two and sometimes in three dimensions. Geometrically, one studies the **Euclidean plane** (two dimensions) and **Euclidean space** (three dimensions). As taught in school books, analytic geometry can be explained more simply: it is concerned with defining and representing geometrical shapes in a numerical way and extracting numerical information from shapes' numerical definitions and representations. The numerical output, however, might also be a vector or a shape. That the algebra of the **real numbers** can be employed to yield results about the linear continuum of geometry relies on the **Cantor–Dedekind axiom**.

1.2 Persia

The eleventh century **Persian** mathematician **Omar Khayyám** saw a strong relationship between geometry and algebra, and was moving in the right direction when he helped to close the gap between numerical and geometric algebra^[4] with his geometric solution of the general cubic equations,^[5] but the decisive step came later with **Descartes**.^[4]

1.3 Western Europe

Analytic geometry was independently invented by René Descartes and Pierre de Fermat,^{[6][7]} although Descartes is sometimes given sole credit.^{[8][9]} *Cartesian geometry*, the alternative term used for analytic geometry, is named after Descartes.

Descartes made significant progress with the methods in an essay titled *La Geometrie* (*Geometry*), one of the three accompanying essays (appendices) published in 1637 together with his *Discourse on the Method for Rightly Directing One's Reason and Searching for Truth in the Sciences*, commonly referred to as *Discourse on Method*. This work, written in his native French tongue, and its philosophical principles, provided a foundation for calculus in Europe. Initially the work was not well received, due, in part, to the many gaps in arguments and complicated equations. Only after the translation into Latin and the addition of commentary by van Schooten in 1649 (and further work thereafter) did Descartes's masterpiece receive due recognition.^[10]

Pierre de Fermat also pioneered the development of analytic geometry. Although not published in his lifetime, a manuscript form of *Ad locos planos et solidos isagoge* (Introduction to Plane and Solid Loci) was circulating in Paris in 1637, just prior to the publication of Descartes' *Discourse*.^{[11][12][13]} Clearly written and well received, the *Introduction* also laid the groundwork for analytical geometry. The key difference between Fermat's and Descartes' treatments is a matter of viewpoint: Fermat always started with an algebraic equation and then described the geometric curve which satisfied it, whereas Descartes started with geometric curves and produced their equations as one of several properties of the curves.^[10] As a consequence of this approach, Descartes had to deal with more complicated equations and he had to develop the methods to work with polynomial equations of higher degree. It was Leonard Euler who first applied the coordinate method in a systematic study of space curves and surfaces.

2 Coordinates

Main article: [Coordinate systems](#)

In analytic geometry, the plane is given a coordinate system, by which every point has a pair of real number coordinates. Similarly, Euclidean space is given coordinates where every point has three coordinates. The value of the coordinates depends on the choice of the initial point of origin. There are a variety of coordinate systems used, but the most common are the following.^[14]

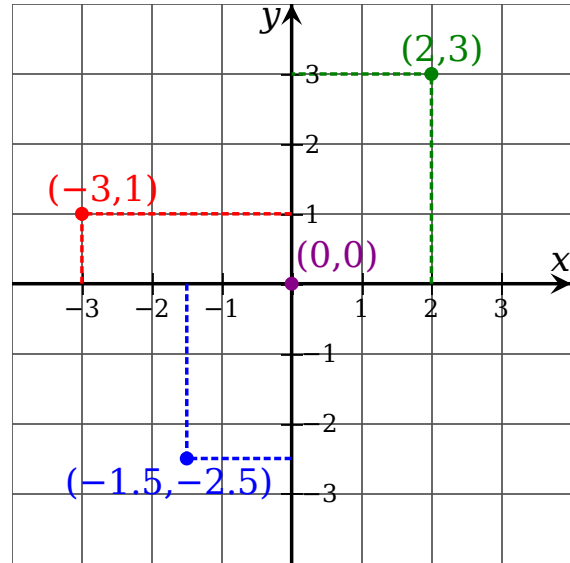


Illustration of a Cartesian coordinate plane. Four points are marked and labeled with their coordinates: $(2,3)$ in green, $(-3,1)$ in red, $(-1.5,-2.5)$ in blue, and the origin $(0,0)$ in purple.

2.1 Cartesian coordinates

Main article: [Cartesian coordinate system](#)

The most common coordinate system to use is the [Cartesian coordinate system](#), where each point has an x -coordinate representing its horizontal position, and a y -coordinate representing its vertical position. These are typically written as an [ordered pair](#) (x, y) . This system can also be used for three-dimensional geometry, where every point in [Euclidean space](#) is represented by an [ordered triple](#) of coordinates (x, y, z) .

2.2 Polar coordinates

Main article: [Polar coordinates](#)

In [polar coordinates](#), every point of the plane is represented by its distance r from the origin and its [angle](#) θ from the polar axis.

2.3 Cylindrical coordinates

Main article: [Cylindrical coordinates](#)

In [cylindrical coordinates](#), every point of space is represented by its height z , its [radius](#) r from the z -axis and the [angle](#) θ it makes with respect to its projection on the xy -plane.

2.4 Spherical coordinates

Main article: [Spherical coordinates](#)

In [spherical coordinates](#), every point in space is represented by its distance ρ from the origin, the [angle](#) θ it makes with respect to its projection on the xy -plane, and the angle φ that it makes with respect to the z -axis. The names of the angles are often reversed in physics.^[14]

3 Equations and curves

Main articles: [Solution set](#) and [Locus \(mathematics\)](#)

In analytic geometry, any [equation](#) involving the coordinates specifies a [subset](#) of the plane, namely the [solution set](#) for the equation, or [locus](#). For example, the equation $y = x$ corresponds to the set of all the points on the plane whose x -coordinate and y -coordinate are equal. These points form a [line](#), and $y = x$ is said to be the equation for this line. In general, linear equations involving x and y specify lines, [quadratic equations](#) specify [conic sections](#), and more complicated equations describe more complicated figures.^[15]

Usually, a single equation corresponds to a [curve](#) on the plane. This is not always the case: the trivial equation $x = x$ specifies the entire plane, and the equation $x^2 + y^2 = 0$ specifies only the single point $(0, 0)$. In three dimensions, a single equation usually gives a [surface](#), and a curve must be specified as the [intersection](#) of two surfaces (see below), or as a system of [parametric equations](#).^[16] The equation $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$ is the equation for any circle centered at the origin $(0, 0)$ with a radius of r .

3.1 Lines and planes

Main articles: [Line \(geometry\)](#) and [Plane \(geometry\)](#)

Lines in a [Cartesian plane](#) or, more generally, in [affine coordinates](#), can be described algebraically by [linear equations](#). In two dimensions, the equation for non-vertical lines is often given in the [slope-intercept form](#):

$$y = mx + b$$

where:

m is the [slope](#) or [gradient](#) of the line.

b is the [y-intercept](#) of the line.

x is the [independent variable](#) of the function $y = f(x)$.

In a manner analogous to the way lines in a two-dimensional space are described using a point-slope form for their equations, planes in a three dimensional space have a natural description using a point in the plane and a vector orthogonal to it (the [normal vector](#)) to indicate its “inclination”.

Specifically, let \mathbf{r}_0 be the position vector of some point $P_0 = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$, and let $\mathbf{n} = (a, b, c)$ be a nonzero vector. The plane determined by this point and vector consists of those points P , with position vector \mathbf{r} , such that the vector drawn from P_0 to P is perpendicular to \mathbf{n} . Recalling that two vectors are perpendicular if and only if their dot product is zero, it follows that the desired plane can be described as the set of all points \mathbf{r} such that

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0) = 0.$$

(The dot here means a [dot product](#), not scalar multiplication.) Expanded this becomes

$$a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0,$$

which is the [point-normal](#) form of the equation of a plane.^[17] This is just a [linear equation](#):

$$ax + by + cz + d = 0, \text{ where } d = -(ax_0 + by_0 + cz_0).$$

Conversely, it is easily shown that if a , b , c and d are constants and a , b , and c are not all zero, then the graph of the equation

$$ax + by + cz + d = 0,$$

is a plane having the vector $\mathbf{n} = (a, b, c)$ as a normal.^[18] This familiar equation for a plane is called the [general form](#) of the equation of the plane.^[19]

In three dimensions, lines can *not* be described by a single linear equation, so they are frequently described by [parametric equations](#):

$$x = x_0 + at$$

$$y = y_0 + bt$$

$$z = z_0 + ct$$

where:

x , y , and z are all functions of the independent variable t which ranges over the real numbers.

(x_0, y_0, z_0) is any point on the line.

a , b , and c are related to the slope of the line, such that the vector (a, b, c) is parallel to the line.

3.2 Conic sections

Main article: [Conic section](#)

In the [Cartesian coordinate system](#), the [graph](#) of a quadratic equation in two variables is always a conic section – though it may be degenerate, and all conic sections arise in this way. The equation will be of the form

$$Ax^2 + Bxy + Cy^2 + Dx + Ey + F = 0 \text{ with } A, B, C \text{ not all zero.}$$

As scaling all six constants yields the same locus of zeros, one can consider conics as points in the five-dimensional projective space \mathbf{P}^5 .

The conic sections described by this equation can be classified with the [discriminant](#)^[20]

$$B^2 - 4AC.$$

If the conic is non-degenerate, then:

- if $B^2 - 4AC < 0$, the equation represents an [ellipse](#);
- if $A = C$ and $B = 0$, the equation represents a [circle](#), which is a special case of an ellipse;
- if $B^2 - 4AC = 0$, the equation represents a [parabola](#);
- if $B^2 - 4AC > 0$, the equation represents a [hyperbola](#);
- if we also have $A + C = 0$, the equation represents a [rectangular hyperbola](#).

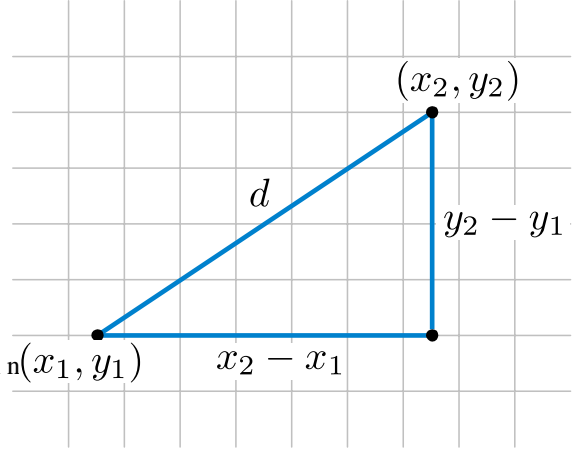
3.3 Quadric surfaces

Main article: [Quadric surface](#)

A [quadric](#), or [quadric surface](#), is a 2-dimensional surface in 3-dimensional space defined as the [locus](#) of zeros of a quadratic polynomial. In coordinates x_1, x_2, x_3 , the general quadric is defined by the [algebraic equation](#)^[21]

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^3 x_i Q_{ij} x_j + \sum_{i=1}^3 P_i x_i + R = 0$$

Quadric surfaces include [ellipsoids](#) (including the [sphere](#)), [paraboloids](#), [hyperboloids](#), [cylinders](#), [cones](#), and [planes](#).



The distance formula on the plane follows from the [Pythagorean theorem](#).

4 Distance and angle

Main articles: [Distance](#) and [Angle](#)

In analytic geometry, geometric notions such as [distance](#) and [angle](#) measure are defined using [formulas](#). These definitions are designed to be consistent with the underlying [Euclidean geometry](#). For example, using [Cartesian coordinates](#) on the plane, the distance between two points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) is defined by the formula

$$d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2},$$

which can be viewed as a version of the [Pythagorean theorem](#). Similarly, the angle that a line makes with the horizontal can be defined by the formula

$$\theta = \arctan(m)$$

where m is the [slope](#) of the line.

In three dimensions, distance is given by the generalization of the [Pythagorean theorem](#):

$$d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2 + (z_2 - z_1)^2},$$

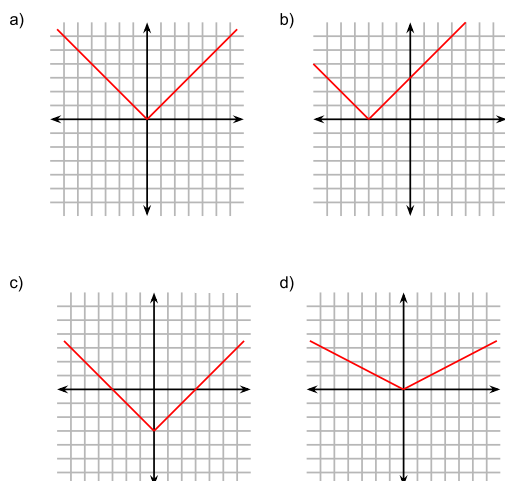
while the angle between two vectors is given by the [dot product](#). The dot product of two Euclidean vectors **A** and **B** is defined by^[22]

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \|\mathbf{A}\| \|\mathbf{B}\| \cos \theta,$$

where θ is the [angle](#) between **A** and **B**.

5 Transformations

Transformations are applied to a parent function to turn it into a new function with similar characteristics.



a) $y = f(x) = |x|$ b) $y = f(x+3)$ c) $y = f(x)-3$ d) $y = 1/2 f(x)$

The graph of $R(x, y)$ is changed by standard transformations as follows:

- Changing x to $x - h$ moves the graph to the right h units.
- Changing y to $y - k$ moves the graph up k units.
- Changing x to x/b stretches the graph horizontally by a factor of b . (think of the x as being dilated)
- Changing y to y/a stretches the graph vertically.
- Changing x to $x \cos A + y \sin A$ and changing y to $-x \sin A + y \cos A$ rotates the graph by an angle A .

There are other standard transformation not typically studied in elementary analytic geometry because the transformations change the shape of objects in ways not usually considered. Skewing is an example of a transformation not usually considered. For more information, consult the Wikipedia article on [affine transformations](#).

For example, the parent function $y = 1/x$ has a horizontal and a vertical asymptote, and occupies the first and third quadrant, and all of its transformed forms have one horizontal and vertical asymptote, and occupies either the 1st and 3rd or 2nd and 4th quadrant. In general, if $y = f(x)$, then it can be transformed into $y = af(b(x-k))+h$. In the new transformed function, a is the factor that vertically stretches the function if it is greater than 1 or vertically compresses the function if it is less than 1, and for negative a values, the function is reflected in the x -axis. The b value compresses the graph of the function horizontally if greater than 1 and stretches the function horizontally if less than 1, and like a , reflects the function in the y -axis when it is negative. The k and h values introduce translations, h , vertical, and

k horizontal. Positive h and k values mean the function is translated to the positive end of its axis and negative meaning translation towards the negative end.

Transformations can be applied to any geometric equation whether or not the equation represents a function. Transformations can be considered as individual transactions or in combinations.

Suppose that $R(x, y)$ is a relation in the xy plane. For example,

$$x^2 + y^2 - 1 = 0$$

is the relation that describes the unit circle.

6 Finding intersections of geometric objects

Main article: [Intersection \(geometry\)](#)

For two geometric objects P and Q represented by the relations $P(x, y)$ and $Q(x, y)$ the intersection is the collection of all points (x, y) which are in both relations.^[23]

For example, P might be the circle with radius 1 and center $(0, 0)$: $P = \{(x, y) | x^2 + y^2 = 1\}$ and Q might be the circle with radius 1 and center $(1, 0)$: $Q = \{(x, y) | (x - 1)^2 + y^2 = 1\}$. The intersection of these two circles is the collection of points which make both equations true. Does the point $(0, 0)$ make both equations true? Using $(0, 0)$ for (x, y) , the equation for Q becomes $(0 - 1)^2 + 0^2 = 1$ or $(-1)^2 = 1$ which is true, so $(0, 0)$ is in the relation Q . On the other hand, still using $(0, 0)$ for (x, y) the equation for P becomes $0^2 + 0^2 = 1$ or $0 = 1$ which is false. $(0, 0)$ is not in P so it is not in the intersection.

The intersection of P and Q can be found by solving the simultaneous equations:

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1$$

$$(x - 1)^2 + y^2 = 1$$

Traditional methods for finding intersections include substitution and elimination.

Substitution: Solve the first equation for y in terms of x and then substitute the expression for y into the second equation.

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1$$

$$y^2 = 1 - x^2$$

We then substitute this value for y^2 into the other equation and proceed to solve for x .

$$(x - 1)^2 + (1 - x^2) = 1$$

$$x^2 - 2x + 1 + 1 - x^2 = 1$$

$$-2x = -1$$

$$x = 1/2$$

Next, we place this value of x in either of the original equations and solve for y .

$$(1/2)^2 + y^2 = 1$$

$$y^2 = 3/4$$

$$y = \pm\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

So our intersection has two points.

$$\left(1/2, \frac{\pm\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) \text{ and } \left(1/2, \frac{-\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$$

Elimination: Add (or subtract) a multiple of one equation to the other equation so that one of the variables is eliminated. For our current example, if we subtract the first equation from the second we get $(x-1)^2 - x^2 = 0$. The y^2 in the first equation is subtracted from the y^2 in the second equation leaving no y term. The variable y has been eliminated. We then solve the remaining equation for x , in the same way as in the substitution method.

$$x^2 - 2x + 1 + 1 - x^2 = 1$$

$$-2x = -1$$

$$x = 1/2$$

We then place this value of x in either of the original equations and solve for y .

$$(1/2)^2 + y^2 = 1$$

$$y^2 = 3/4$$

$$y = \pm\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

So our intersection has two points.

$$\left(1/2, \frac{\pm\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) \text{ and } \left(1/2, \frac{-\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$$

For conic sections, as many as 4 points might be in the intersection.

6.1 Finding intercepts

Main articles: [x-intercept](#) and [y-intercept](#)

One type of intersection which is widely studied is the intersection of a geometric object with the x and y coordinate axes.

The intersection of a geometric object and the y -axis is called the y -intercept of the object. The intersection of a geometric object and the x -axis is called the x -intercept of the object.

For the line $y = mx + b$, the parameter b specifies the point where the line crosses the y axis. Depending on the context, either b or the point $(0, b)$ is called the y -intercept.

7 Tangents and normals

7.1 Tangent lines and planes

Main article: [Tangent](#)

In [geometry](#), the **tangent line** (or simply **tangent**) to a plane curve at a given point is the straight line that “just touches” the curve at that point. Informally, it is a line through a pair of infinitely close points on the curve. More precisely, a straight line is said to be a tangent of a curve $y = f(x)$ at a point $x = c$ on the curve if the line passes through the point $(c, f(c))$ on the curve and has slope $f'(c)$ where f' is the derivative of f . A similar definition applies to [space curves](#) and curves in n -dimensional Euclidean space.

As it passes through the point where the tangent line and the curve meet, called the **point of tangency**, the tangent line is “going in the same direction” as the curve, and is thus the best straight-line approximation to the curve at that point.

Similarly, the **tangent plane** to a surface at a given point is the plane that “just touches” the surface at that point. The concept of a tangent is one of the most fundamental notions in [differential geometry](#) and has been extensively generalized; see [Tangent space](#).

7.2 Normal line and vector

Main article: [Normal \(geometry\)](#)

In [geometry](#), a **normal** is an object such as a line or vector that is [perpendicular](#) to a given object. For example, in the two-dimensional case, the **normal line** to a curve at a given point is the line perpendicular to the [tangent line](#) to the curve at the point.

In the three-dimensional case a **surface normal**, or simply **normal**, to a surface at a point P is a vector that is perpendicular to the tangent plane to that surface at P . The word “normal” is also used as an adjective: a line normal to a plane, the normal component of a force, the **normal vector**, etc. The concept of **normality** generalizes to [orthogonality](#).

8 See also

- [Linear equation](#)
- [Vector space](#)
- [Cross product](#)
- [Algebraic geometry](#)

9 Notes

- [1] Boyer, Carl B. (1991). "The Age of Plato and Aristotle". *A History of Mathematics* (Second ed.). John Wiley & Sons, Inc. pp. 94–95. ISBN 0-471-54397-7. Menaechmus apparently derived these properties of the conic sections and others as well. Since this material has a strong resemblance to the use of coordinates, as illustrated above, it has sometimes been maintained that Menaechmus had analytic geometry. Such a judgment is warranted only in part, for certainly Menaechmus was unaware that any equation in two unknown quantities determines a curve. In fact, the general concept of an equation in unknown quantities was alien to Greek thought. It was shortcomings in algebraic notations that, more than anything else, operated against the Greek achievement of a full-fledged coordinate geometry.
- [2] Boyer, Carl B. (1991). "Apollonius of Perga". *A History of Mathematics* (Second ed.). John Wiley & Sons, Inc. p. 142. ISBN 0-471-54397-7. The Apollonian treatise *On Determinate Section* dealt with what might be called an analytic geometry of one dimension. It considered the following general problem, using the typical Greek algebraic analysis in geometric form: Given four points A, B, C, D on a straight line, determine a fifth point P on it such that the rectangle on AP and CP is in a given ratio to the rectangle on BP and DP. Here, too, the problem reduces easily to the solution of a quadratic; and, as in other cases, Apollonius treated the question exhaustively, including the limits of possibility and the number of solutions.
- [3] Boyer, Carl B. (1991). "Apollonius of Perga". *A History of Mathematics* (Second ed.). John Wiley & Sons, Inc. p. 156. ISBN 0-471-54397-7. The method of Apollonius in the *Conics* in many respects are so similar to the modern approach that his work sometimes is judged to be an analytic geometry anticipating that of Descartes by 1800 years. The application of reference lines in general, and of a diameter and a tangent at its extremity in particular, is, of course, not essentially different from the use of a coordinate frame, whether rectangular or, more generally, oblique. Distances measured along the diameter from the point of tangency are the abscissas, and segments parallel to the tangent and intercepted between the axis and the curve are the ordinates. The Apollonian relationship between these abscissas and the corresponding ordinates are nothing more nor less than rhetorical forms of the equations of the curves. However, Greek geometric algebra did not provide for negative magnitudes; moreover, the coordinate system was in every case superimposed *a posteriori* upon a given curve in order to study its properties. There appear to be no cases in ancient geometry in which a coordinate frame of reference was laid down *a priori* for purposes of graphical representation of an equation or relationship, whether symbolically or rhetorically expressed. Of Greek geometry we may say that equations are determined by curves, but not that curves are determined by equations. Coordinates, variables, and equations were subsidiary notions derived from a specific geometric situation; [...] That Apollonius, the greatest geometer of antiquity, failed to develop analytic geometry, was probably the result of a poverty of curves rather than of thought. General methods are not necessary when problems concern always one of a limited number of particular cases.
- [4] Boyer (1991). "The Arabic Hegemony". *A History of Mathematics*. pp. 241–242. Omar Khayyam (ca. 1050–1123), the "tent-maker," wrote an *Algebra* that went beyond that of al-Khwarizmi to include equations of third degree. Like his Arab predecessors, Omar Khayyam provided for quadratic equations both arithmetic and geometric solutions; for general cubic equations, he believed (mistakenly, as the sixteenth century later showed), arithmetic solutions were impossible; hence he gave only geometric solutions. The scheme of using intersecting conics to solve cubics had been used earlier by Menaechmus, Archimedes, and Alhazan, but Omar Khayyam took the praiseworthy step of generalizing the method to cover all third-degree equations (having positive roots). For equations of higher degree than three, Omar Khayyam evidently did not envision similar geometric methods, for space does not contain more than three dimensions, ... One of the most fruitful contributions of Arabic eclecticism was the tendency to close the gap between numerical and geometric algebra. The decisive step in this direction came much later with Descartes, but Omar Khayyam was moving in this direction when he wrote, "Whoever thinks algebra is a trick in obtaining unknowns has thought it in vain. No attention should be paid to the fact that algebra and geometry are different in appearance. Algebras are geometric facts which are proved."
- [5] Glen M. Cooper (2003). "Omar Khayyam, the Mathematician", *The Journal of the American Oriental Society* 123.
- [6] Stillwell, John (2004). "Analytic Geometry". *Mathematics and its History* (Second ed.). Springer Science + Business Media Inc. p. 105. ISBN 0-387-95336-1. the two founders of analytic geometry, Fermat and Descartes, were both strongly influenced by these developments.
- [7] Boyer 2004, p. 74
- [8] Cooke, Roger (1997). "The Calculus". *The History of Mathematics: A Brief Course*. Wiley-Interscience. p. 326. ISBN 0-471-18082-3. The person who is popularly credited with being the discoverer of analytic geometry was the philosopher René Descartes (1596–1650), one of the most influential thinkers of the modern era.
- [9] Boyer 2004, p. 82
- [10] Katz 1998, pg. 442
- [11] Katz 1998, pg. 436
- [12] Pierre de Fermat, *Varia Opera Mathematica d. Petri de Fermat, Senatoris Tolosani* (Toulouse, France: Jean Pech, 1679), "Ad locos planos et solidos isagoge," pp. 91–103.
- [13] "Eloge de Monsieur de Fermat" (Eulogy of Mr. de Fermat), *Le Journal des Scavans*, 9 February 1665, pp. 69–72. From p. 70: "Une introduction aux lieux, plans & solides; qui est un traité analytique concernant la solution des problemes plans & solides, qui avoit esté veu devant que M. des Cartes eut rien publié sur ce sujet." (An introduction to loci, plane and solid; which is an analytical treatise concerning the solution of plane and solid problems, which

was seen before Mr. des Cartes had published anything on this subject.)

- [14] Stewart, James (2008). *Calculus: Early Transcendentals*, 6th ed., Brooks Cole Cengage Learning. ISBN 978-0-495-01166-8
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- [17] Anton 1994, p. 155
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- [19] Weisstein, Eric W. (2009), "Plane", *MathWorld--A Wolfram Web Resource*, retrieved 2009-08-08
- [20] Fanchi, John R. (2006), *Math refresher for scientists and engineers*, John Wiley and Sons, pp. 44–45, ISBN 0-471-75715-2, Section 3.2, page 45
- [21] Silvio Levy *Quadrics* in "Geometry Formulas and Facts", excerpted from 30th Edition of *CRC Standard Mathematical Tables and Formulas*, CRC Press, from The Geometry Center at University of Minnesota
- [22] M.R. Spiegel; S. Lipschutz; D. Spellman (2009). *Vector Analysis (Schaum's Outlines)* (2nd ed.). McGraw Hill. ISBN 978-0-07-161545-7.
- [23] While this discussion is limited to the xy-plane, it can easily be extended to higher dimensions.

10 References

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11 External links

- [Coordinate Geometry topics with interactive animations](#)

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12.1 Text

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